ed functioning since April, 1986 under the financial support of the Central Government.

11. In order to reduce disparity in minimum rates of wages, certain guidelines have been formulated and circulated to all the State Governments, etc. for comments.

12. A centrally sponsored scheme of matching (upto Rupees one lakh per exchange) for acquiring computer hardware to computerise Employment Exchanges is being implemented, to cover Employment Exchanges with a live register of one lakh or more in a phased manner. State Governments have been advised to send details of the computer systems being acquired by them so that Central assistance can be released under the scheme.

13. A centrally sponsored scheme for assistance to State Governments for setting up new ITIs for women/opening of new wings for women/starting of new trades in Women ITI's has been approved for operation from 1987-88 onwards. The Scheme of strenghening of NVTI/RVTI at Bombay and Bangalore also includes diversification to new areas like computer courses etc. for improving employability of women.

14. The Group of Labour Ministers examined the matters referred to them.

Smuggling at Bangalore Airport

2777. SHRI RAMSIGHBHAI PATALIYABHAI RATHVAKOLI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that seven passengers were arrested during the last three weeks at Bangalore Airport by the intelligence wing of his Ministry for bringing in contraband electronic gadgets and textiles worth about 3 lakhs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the action taken against each of them;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Big smuggling racket at Bangalore Airport" which was published in the Delhi edition of the 'Indian Express' of the 10th November, 1986;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what action has been taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI) : (a) to (d) Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the "Indian Express" daily dated 10-11-86 under the caption "Big smuggling racket at Bangalore airport". Factual details of the cases are as follows :

The officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence intercepted five cases of unaccompanied baggage cleared through Air Cargo complex, Bangalore and seized contraband consumer goods such as Calculators, Electronic goods, Wrist watches, Zip fasteners and textiles totally valued at Rs. 7.98 lakhs between the period from 30-9-86 to 3-11-86. Seven persons were arrested in this connection. The cases are under various stages of investigation/adjudication.

(e) Strict watch is being maintained at Air Cargo complexes attached to all international airprts to thwart any attempts of smuggling in this manner. Customs preventive and intelligence units attached to all international airports have also been alerted to gear up the preventive machinery.

Misappropriation of money by an employee of ITDC managed LMP Hotel, Mysore

2778. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD : Will the Miniser of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Rs. 2.30 lakhs was misappropriated a couple of months ago by the employee of ITDC managed LMP Hotel, Mysore in league with its General Manager;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by the ITDC management to recover the amount from the concerned employee as also fixing the responsibility for this lapse ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED) (a) to (c) During the course of reconciliation of trial balance for the year 1985-86, the General Manager of Lalitha Mahal Palace Hotel, Mysore had noticed certain shortages which on investigation was found to be of the order of Rs. 1.94 lakhs. An amount of Rs. 52,987/- has been recovered against